

INCOMING TELEGRAM

47 Department of State

EXCISE

PERMANENT RECORD

CONFIDENTIAL

Control: 10535

Rec'd: October 17, 1961

6:00 PM

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State REVIEWED BY

DATE

NO: 762, OCTOBER 17, 6 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 762, BONN PRIORITY 667, INFORMATION LONDON PRIORITY 501, MOSCOW PRIORITY 477, PARIS PRIORITY 542, POLAD USAREUR PRIORITY 412.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRC, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

US POLAD CALLED ON SOV THIS MORNING CONCERNING OCT 15 INCIDENTS AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT (BERLIN'S 757 DEPT, 672 BONN). US POLAD OPENED MEETING WITH REMARKS ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING PAPER WHICH WAS LEFT WITH SOV AT HIS REQUEST.

BEGIN TEXT.

IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR I CALLED ON [] TO DISCUSS WITH HIM DIFFICULTIES SEVERAL MEMBERS OF OUR MISSION IN BERLIN HAD EXPERIENCED ENTERING AND DEPARTING SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN BECAUSE VOPOS AT CHECKPOINTS HAD DEMANDED TO SEE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF OCCUPANTS OF U.S. REGISTERED VEHICLES (BERLIN'S 325 DEPT, 303 BONN, NOV 15, 1960). DURING OUR DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT, [] INDICATED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO CONSISTENCY TO VOPO ACTIONS AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 15, TWO US VEHICLES, WITH "U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY" LICENSE PLATES, ENTERED EAST BERLIN AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE FREELY AND WITHOUT HINDRANCE, BUT WERE STOPPED

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ON THEIR WAY BACK INTO WEST BERLIN BY VOPOS. VOPOS DEMANDED THAT OCCUPANTS SHOW IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTED VEHICLES FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS FROM LEAVING EAST BERLIN WHEN PASSENGERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ARRANGEMENTS, REFUSED TO SHOW THEIR DOCUMENTS. US PERSONNEL REQUESTED SUMMONING OF SOVIET OFFICER, BUT NONE APPEARED. TWO OTHER US AUTOMOBILES, ALSO WITH "U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY" LICENSE PLATES, WERE HELD UP BY VOPOS DEMANDING SHOWING OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND WERE DENIED ENTRY INTO SOVIET SECTOR.

ON AUGUST 16, U.S. COMMANDANT GENERAL WATSON CALLED ON SOVIET COMMANDANT COL SOLOVYEV WITH REGARD TO DELAY EXPERIENCED ON AUGUST 23 BY US ARMY BUSES WHILE ENTERING SOVIET SECTOR AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE WHEN SOVIET SECTOR GERMAN POLICE IMPROPERLY DEMANDED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS OF OCCUPANTS IN BUSES (BERLIN'S 332 AND 333 DEPT, 295 AND 296 BONN). IT WAS ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY THAT BUSES WERE FINALLY ABLE TO ENTER SOVIET SECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH QUADRIPARTITE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT CITY. DURING DISCUSSION OF CASE, COL SOLOVYEV INDICATED TO GENERAL WATSON THAT HE HAD TAKEN INTEREST IN MATTER OF FREE PASSAGE OF US PERSONNEL INTO AND OUT OF SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE WERE NO OBSTACLES TO FREE PASSAGE OF AUTOMOBILES WITH "U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY" PLATES.

IN 1958 ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BETWEEN US AND SOVIET HEADQUARTERS TO PREVENT JUST SUCH DIFFICULTIES AS HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE SECTOR CROSSING POINT BY PROVIDING SOVIET HEADQUARTERS AT KARLSHORST WITH DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF LICENSE PLATES OF U.S. REGISTERED VEHICLES IN GERMANY. YOUR HEADQUARTERS WAS INFORMED BY LETTERS WHEN THESE LICENSE PLATES WERE CHANGED ON SUBSEQUENT DATES. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD WORKED FAIRLY WELL EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

I RECOGNIZE THAT CONDUCT OF SOVIET SECTOR GERMAN POLICE IS AT TIMES ERRATIC AND THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR CONFUSION ABOUT INSTRUCTIONS MAY OCCUR. IT IS STRANGE THAT AUTOMOBILES SHOULD ENTER AT CROSSING POINT WITHOUT HINDRANCE AND EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY EXITING AT SAME PLACE SHORT TIME LATER.

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I MUST EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WE REGARD MATTER AS VERY SERIOUS. IF HINDRANCE TO OUR FREE PASSAGE INTO EAST BERLIN HAD NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN YESTERDAY AND TRAFFIC HAD NOT BEEN RESTORED TO NORMAL, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE MEASURES THAT COULD HAVE HAD SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. HENCE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF DIFFICULTIES WITH REGARD TO FREE MOVEMENT OF US PERSONNEL WITHIN BERLIN. WESTERN COMMANDANTS ENSURE TO SOVIET PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT INTO AND WITHIN WEST BERLIN AND WE EXPECT SOVIET COMMANDANT TO ENSURE FREE AND UNIMPEDED PASSAGE INTO AND THROUGHOUT SOVIET SECTOR FOR ALL US FORCES PERSONNEL.

END TEXT



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Action

Control: 10601

Rec'd:

October 7:05 pm

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FROM: BERLIN

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 762, OCTOBER 17, 6 PM (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 762, BONN PRIORITY 677, INFORMATION PARIS PRIORITY 542, LONDON PRIORITY 501, MOSCOW PRIORITY 477, POLAD USAREUR 412.

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US POLAD THEN RAISED SUBJECT OF IMPORTANCE IN THESE TROUBLED DAYS OF US AND SOV POLADS BEING ABLE TO GET TOGETHER PROMPTLY WITH ONE ANOTHER TO DISCUSS ISSUES AS THEY MAY ARISE. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN BERLIN, HE SAID, SITUATIONS CAN READILY ARISE WHICH POLADS MAY NEED DISCUSS ON VERY SHORT NOTICE. HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH [REDACTED] AROUND A YEAR AGO AND IT IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAT WE BEAR THIS IN MIND. SOV [REDACTED] REPLIED THE HE HAD NOW EXHAUSTED ALL HIS VACATION LEAVE AND THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER ON EITHER AT KARLSHORST OR AT SPAN [REDACTED] PRISON. HE HAD NO DEPUTY, AND THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE TO DO HIS WORK IN HIS ABSENCE. NOW

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THAT HE WAS BACK IN BERLIN, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF URGENT MATTERS
AROSE, A MEETING COULD BE QUICKLY ARRANGED.

[Handwritten signature/initials]

[Handwritten signature/initials]

LIGHTNER

KEA

NOTE: Advance copy to SO, 10/17/61. JAW.

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